(c) The state has achieved a sanitation coverage of 67.51% as per online monitoring report provided by the state. 57.42% of Individual household latrine, 86.30% of school toilet units and 35.90% of Anganwadi toilets have been constructed against project objectives.

(d) The funds released to Andhra Pradesh under TSC during the last three years, year-wise and toilets constructed under TSC during this period as per online report provided by the State is as under:

Year	Funds Released (Rs. In lakh)	Number of Toilets Constructed			
		IHHL	Community Complex	School Toilets	Anganwadi Toilets
2006-07	9455.20	1383783	194	12624	1656
2007-08	878.78	389242	337	13888	957
2008-09	1391.81	292697	17	30727	1640
2009-10	11078.44*	436445*	12*	1462*	615*

*(as reported Till 3.12.2009

Utilization of NREGS funds

2148. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the district authorities are utilizing the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) funds without consulting the Sarpanch and in some places the BDO and the District Authorities are not approving the proposal of Gram Panchayat; and

(b) whether Government has received such complaints particularly from Orissa and Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) 2 such complaints from Bihar, 1 from Uttar Pradesh and 1 from Jharkhand have been received in this Ministry.

(b) No specific complaint in this regard has been received in this Ministry from Orissa and Chhattisgarh.

Hijacking of vessel by Somali pirates

2149. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the hijacking of a Pacific International Line vessel by Somali pirates on 15 October, 2009;

(b) the number of Indians who were on board and now are in the custody of Somali pirates;

(c) whether Government has taken up the matter with the appropriate authority to get the Indian citizens released from the custody of Somali pirates; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are two Indian nationals on the board the vessel.

(c) and (d) The Directorate General of Shipping has requested the owners of the vessel to keep them informed about the position of the vessel, welfare of the crew members and status of negotiations with hijackers. As per information received, the hijacked vessel has reached the Somali coast close to Hobyo in Central Somalia and the owners are negotiating with the pirates for the safe release of the crew members.

Brahmaputra River as a National Waterways

2150. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state the actions so far taken to make the Brahmaputra River as National Waterway, a decision which was taken earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of river Brahmaputra has already been declared as a National Waterway with effect from 26.12.1988 and it is being developed and maintained by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) for shipping and navigation. IWAI is developing and maintaining inland water transport infrastructure namely navigation channel, terminals and navigational aids for day/night navigation. Navigational channel with least available depth of 2.0 m from Dhubri to Dibrugrah (768 km) and 1.5 m from Dibrugrah to Sadiya (123 km) is being maintained for about 330 days in a year; a low level RCC jetty has been constructed at Pandu, a high level jetty is under construction. Floating terminals have been provided at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Tejpur, Silghat, Jamuguri, Neamati and Dibrugarh; one container crane, 5 floating cranes and 2 shore cranes have been provided, day navigation marks are maintained in the entire waterway and 24 hours navigational aids have also been provided between Dhubri and Dibrugrah (768 km).

Vessel Traffic Monitoring System Authority

2151. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vessel Traffic Monitoring System (VTMS) is being set up in Gulf of Kutch, and whether the project has been completed;

(b) if so, whether the exercise for regulating the shipping traffic has been started;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) by when the project would be completed?